

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01242 281343Z

41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 DRC-01 /103 W

----- 058854

R 281312Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6457

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, TD, XL

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MAHABIR COMMENTS ON HIS WASHINGTON VISIT

REF: POS 1225; POS 1231; STATE 109786

1. AT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' REQUEST (POS 1231), I REVIEWED AVIATION MATTERS WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR LATE AFTERNOON MAY 24. HE REAFFIRMED THAT GOTT IS NOW ASSEMBLING DOCUMENTS TO PRESENT TO USG AS OUTLINED POS 1225. MAHABIR ALSO COMMENTED THAT GOTT IS VERY INTERESTED IN WHAT HE TERMED USG OFFER OF "ASSISTANCE" TO A CARIBBEAN REGIONAL AIRLINE, IF THIS WERE TO BE REQUESTED BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED TOPIC OF A REGIONAL AIRLINE EARLIER THAT DAY WITH CARICOM SECGEN WILLIAMS DEMAS, WHO OPINED THAT HE NOW THOUGHT JAMAICA AND GUYANA MIGHT GO ALONG WITH THE GOTT, BUT NOT BARBADOS.

2. MAHABIR SAID THAT THE TOPIC OF A REGIONAL CARRIER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A FORTHCOMING CARICOM MEETING IN JAMAICA (POS 1202) DEVOTED TO "RATIONALIZATION OF REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION." HE NOTED THAT TRINIDAD'S DELEGATION TO THIS MEETING WILL BE LED BY  
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PAGE 02 PORT O 01242 281343Z

BWIA DIRECTOR SCOON, WHO ALSO TOOK PART IN MAHABIR'S WASHINGTON

DISCUSSION, AND WHO PRESUMABLY WILL DRAW UPON PRESENTATION MADE IN WASHINGTON (STATE 109786). MAHABIR ALSO IMPLIED THAT PM WILLIAMS WILL RAISE THIS SUBJECT IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS DURING HIS ANNOUNCED MEETING IN PORT OF SPAIN WITH PM'S MANLEY AND BURNHAM ON JUNE 7. TRINIDADIAN CONCERN OVER BWIA--ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO JAMAICA'S ROLE--WAS ALSO UNDERSCORED AT CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ANNUAL BANQUET EVENING OF MAY 24, WHEN CHAMBER PRESIDENT (IN MAHABIR'S PRESENCE) URGED GOTT TO UNDERTAKE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO GAIN CARICOM SUPPORT FOR BWIA.

3. RE PENDING EASTERN AND PANAM APPLICATIONS, MAHABIR SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT THE AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY (ATLA) AGAIN TO TAKE THEM UNDER CONSIDERATION AND RESOLVE ISSUE ON ITS MERITS. HE IMPLIED THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT THESE TWO REQUESTS WERE JUSTIFIED UNDER EXISTING AVIATION ARRANGEMENTS, UT CAUTIONED THAT HIS ACTION WOULD NOT MEAN AUTOMATIC APPROVAL BY ATLA. THE MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT USG OFFICIALS HAD STRONGLY INSINUATED THAT GOTT SHOULD SHOW GOOD FAITH BY APPROVING THESE PENDING REQUESTS, BUT CLAIMED IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY APPROVAL IF LATER ON THE GOTT DOESN'T HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR IT FROM USG.

4. COMMENT: THE BALL IS NOW CLEARLY IN TRINIDAD'S COURT TO COME UP WITH SOME SORT OF REGIONAL AGREEMENT ABOUT WHAT THE CARIBBEANS THEMSELVES WANT TO SEE HAPPEN TO BWIA. I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT "RATIONALIZATION" DOES NOT TURN OUT TO BE A PRETEXT TO DENY US CARRIERS FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR POINTS SERVED BY BWIA. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS SOON AS THE ATLA CONSIDERS THE PANAM AND EASTERN APPLICATIONS.  
MILLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, AIR ROUTES, AIRLINES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740133-0554  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 91  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** POS 1225; POS 1231; STATE 109786  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: MAHABIR COMMENTS ON HIS WASHINGTON VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRN, TD, XL, BWIA, (MAHABIR, ERROL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005